

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Bringing the Bacon Home Without Help

By Denise Minor

With the November closing of 24th Street's Surf Super Market—the only large grocery store in the neighborhood that offered free home delivery—a lot of people were left carrying their loaded grocery bags up the Noe Valley hills.

So the Friends of Noe Valley launched what President Jacques Bertrand terms a "friendly" public pressure campaign to try to convince Bell Market, at 3950 24th St., to pick up the service.

"There are a lot of elderly people, mothers and people who work who came down, picked out their groceries, and Reno's [Surf] delivered them," said Bertrand. "Now these elderly people have to come down three or four times a week so they can carry home what they buy."

Bertrand scheduled meetings with Bell Market General Manager Brian Hamilton, but failed to persuade him that delivery would be feasible.

"It would be a cost burden to us," said Hamilton. "We'd have to buy a vehicle, get additional liability [insurance]... and we're 100 percent union, so we'd have to pay union wages."

He estimated it would cost at least \$15,000 a year the first five years to deliver. But Hamilton agreed to let an independent deliverer run the service out of "Big" Bell's sister store, Little Bell, on Castro Street.

"Someone with a truck already, who wouldn't have to make the large outlay, could do it," he said.

Paul Tognetti, whose family owned Surf's, said he could see Hamilton's point, but hoped Bell would still consider providing a public service for neighbors who cannot carry groceries. "Bell's getting the business anyway. They don't need to deliver," he said. "They've got a captured audience."

Surf, on the other hand, depended on



Neighborhood grocery shoppers have had to truck their own bags home since Surf Super Market and its delivery service shut down a couple of months ago. Bell Market has reacted skeptically to demands for a similar service, but local residents are still pushing the idea. PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

their delivery service. (The store closed because of a very large rent hike, he noted.) Tognetti estimated that about 60 percent of his sales were delivery orders. The store made about 15 deliveries a day during the week and between 40 and 50 on Saturdays, he said. The value of each drop-off ranged from \$20 to \$180.

Probably the only way Bell Market would agree to deliver would be in response to public pressure. "It has to come from the customer," Tognetti said. "If they receive petitions, or a lot of customers say something when they go in there, it will make them think twice."

And Bertrand believes it could be cheaper than Hamilton estimates. "He wants to buy a \$12,800 truck and pay \$2,500 a year for it," he said. "But if he rented a truck it would be a lot cheaper, plus he could write it off because it would be an expense, not a capitalization."

Hamilton estimated \$3,200 for insurance, while the Tognettis paid \$1,300 a year for insurance. "Bell is being real conservative about the insurance," said Bertrand.

Bertrand is sure that where there's a will there's a way, especially if the will is backed with cash. "Sure, there are problems," he said. "But a million-dollar

business has a lot of resources."

Businesses should be concerned about providing community services as well as making a profit, he said. "Brian's approach is normal. It's a businessman's approach. But he needs to be pushed over the hurdle of that attitude," he said. "What's going to push him over is pressure from people."

The Friends of Noe Valley encourage their neighbors who want to see grocery delivery to let Bell Market know. In the meantime, Grocery Express of San Francisco delivers to Noe Valley for \$3.25 or for free if the customer orders over \$100 in groceries, said Marketing Vice President Nancy Baer.

According to Baer, produce, dairy, haked goods, meat, household items and prepared meals are all available through Grocery Express's Army Street warehouse. Items are ordered over the phone from a catalog and delivered within two hours, she added. The business is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

To receive a catalog or place an order, call 641-5460. □

Prices Stay High for Noe Homes

By Mark Phillips Green

There's mixed news on the local real estate front. For realtors, business is brisk, and interest rates are at their lowest level since the late '70s. And for homeowners, prices are up, so the long-term investment of home ownership is paying off. But for many would-be homeowners, the American dream of owning a single-family home—particularly in Noe Valley—remains elusive.

According to Ed Rickenbacher, owner of the 24th Street real estate company that bears his name, the big down payment required by lenders these days is what's keeping a lot of people out of the housing market. "Unless the buyer is really solid, most banks want 20 percent down," he says. "Up until a year and a half ago, they [loan institutions] required only 5 or 10 percent down."

Adding fuel to the fire is the fact that San Francisco homes appreciated some 20 percent last year. The California Association of Realtors estimates that the median price for a three-bedroom house in the city jumped 18.6 percent, from \$158,000 in December of 1985 to \$187,000 in December, 1986.

And in our quaint little neighborhood, prices soared even higher. Peter Johnson of B. J. Droubi Real Estate at 4128 24th St. says flatly, "There are no homes in Noe Valley for under \$200,000."

Johnson points to that age-old law of supply and demand. "Buyers aren't stupid," he says. "They're not going to spend too much money for properties that aren't worth it... [Noe Valley] is just a decent neighborhood. Look at it this way: would you want to live anywhere else?"

Noe Valley is so "decent" that, according to Eureka Realty's Tim Cannon, "In some instances, house prices have doubled since 1980." He says, "It's the great weather and the village-type feeling of 24th Street that keeps Noe Valley in demand."

Rickenbacher, who has lived in Noe Valley since 1962, admits, "Some of the home prices here have gotten outrageous," but says, "At least it's not a Union Street... yet."

He sees a glimmer of hope for prospective buyers in that "qualifying [for loans] has become easier because interest rates have fallen." This means lower monthly payments. And Rickenbacher envisions a more "gradual rise of about five percent [in home prices] in the next year or so."

Debra Hersh of Zephyr Realty, also on 24th Street, says a shortage of property in the neighborhood has also contributed to the current upward price spiral.

She points out, however, that "Noe Valley has never really been that affordable. There was a time when houses were \$60,000 in Noe Valley, but let's remember that at that time \$60,000 was a lot of money."

Because of the big bucks involved, many first-time home buyers have left Noe Valley for cheaper pastures. "We've lost a number of home buyers," says Hersh, "to outlying areas like the East Bay."

David Goldberg, who has lived in a Noe Valley rental unit for the past two

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Residents Try to Close the Door on 7-11

By Denise Minor

Noe Valley is not a 7-Eleven neighborhood.

Or so say the Friends of Noe Valley who, backed by two city supervisors, are organizing in response to rumors that a franchise of the 24-hour grocery will open in the vacant storefront at 4049 24th St.

"We would like to see an alternative for that site," said Friends member Miriam Blaustein. "Maybe another dime store, or a dry goods or notions shop. We have nothing of that sort in the neighborhood."

As yet, no one has confirmed that building owner Abe Kass really plans to lease the space formerly occupied by Stagecoach Western Apparel to 7-Eleven. The ruckus arose after someone clandestinely posted a butcher-paper sign reading "Future Home of 7-Eleven" on the building in mid-January. It was removed two days later.

Friends Co-President Jacques Bertrand said he spoke with an employee of Stagecoach, which left the spot Dec. 25, who told him Kass was negotiating with

7-Eleven.

But Kass could not be reached at press time. And the property's realtor, Jonathan Blatteis of 44 Montgomery St., said he had been instructed not to comment. "There have been agreements, but I can't disclose anything," he said. "There are a lot of rumors going around, but there is nothing I can comment on."

The rumors brought about 45 worried neighbors, as well as Supervisors Jim Gonzalez and Bill Maher, to the Friends' meeting Jan. 18 at the Noe Valley Ministry. The supervisors promised to check with the city planning department to see whether a permit had been issued. If it hadn't, Gonzalez said, they could prepare a case for the permit hearing.

If it had, the neighbors could appeal the decision. And if that didn't work, they might be able to force some controls on the establishment to make it more to the neighbors' liking.

"If it couldn't be stopped," Gonzalez said, "then maybe certain conditions could be imposed, such as limiting hours."

Friends Secretary Mary Ann Malinak

says the fact that 7-Elevens usually keep all-night hours is one of the neighbors' main objections. "There is a lot of concern about crime. Twenty-four-hour establishments often attract a certain element," she said. "And there are trash control problems."

But Malinak said some of those at the Jan. 18 meeting were doubtful they could keep the store away. "If the zoning is correct, if they have followed all the guidelines and have money for the rent, what recourse do we have?" she said. "That is a business spot... Realistically, can we stop a large, well-organized chain like 7-Eleven?"

Bertrand thinks they can, and he is already out collecting names of neighbors who will work to keep out the store. "I went out on a Wednesday [Jan. 21] and got almost 200 signatures in an hour," he said. "The response has been tremendous."

And if Kass has no plans to lease to 7-Eleven? "Fine," says Bertrand. "But I don't want to sit back and be unprepared if it does happen." □

Letters

Save the Old Storefronts

Editor:

As a homeowner and an old resident, I have concerns about the kinds of shops that will eventually replace those which can no longer afford the increasing rentals on 24th Street.

I have heard (and I realize that there are many rumors) that a Mrs. Fields cookies or a similar franchise might be interested in occupying a space in our illustrious area. I feel strongly that we should not encourage another franchise (we already have Cybelle's Pizza). It would be more meaningful and friendlier to have a shop where the owner is the person giving his or her service directly to the customers. Secondly, we already have several baked goods shops, and it would be redundant to add yet another. It also cuts into the existing shops' business.

Maybe the old Glen Five & Ten could be made into two rental spaces, or it could be leased out to a service organization. [Editor's Note: At last report the U.S. Postal Service was renovating the storefront vacated by Glen in preparation to move the Noe Valley post office there this spring.]

I would detest a Walgreens when we already have an existing pharmacy—it's obvious he wouldn't last too long with that kind of competition. In other words, whose needs are we really serving?

Last of all, I feel we have to hang on to our funky coffeehouses (Carson-York's bakery and the Meat Market). They perform a real social need for the many singles in the area who use the space for social gatherings. (There are

Tragic End for Troubled Marriage

By Jeff Kaliss

Some people knew that things had not been going well for the 17-year marriage of Linda and Wilbert George, a couple who had lived for more than a decade on Noe Street. But neither friends nor family expected that "Charo," as Wilbert was known to his friends, would take his wife's life, and then his own, in a bloody shooting in Golden Gate Park on New Year's Eve.

Lawyer Terrence Hallinan, whose son attended Rooftop School with the Georges' youngest daughter, was a friend of Linda's. He said that Charo, 42, had "thrown his wife around" as long as a year ago, and had been upset for some time that Linda seemed to be moving toward a separation.

According to Hallinan, Charo apparently retrieved Linda after her shift as a nurse at French Hospital the afternoon of Dec. 31 and drove her to the Conservatory of Flowers in the park. Police Inspector Ed Erdelatz reports that there was

many of us who do not guzzle beer or wine.) In other words, it is the higher income groups whose interests are being served. Those who try to thrive on marginal incomes in order to do creative work (artists, dancers) or those in graduate school have a hard time existing in this neighborhood. We are fast getting into that proverbial situation where the "Russells speak to the Lowells, and the Lowells speak only to God."

Marge Harburg
26th Street

then a struggle between the Georges, observed by several "street people" who left the scene to seek help. Charo reportedly fired a rifle several times at Linda and then turned the gun on himself. They were both pronounced dead at the scene.

Hallinan recalled that Charo had been jailed on Dec. 14 after giving Linda a black eye. He said Linda was very depressed after the beating and received counseling from the police department's Domestic Violence Program, which strengthened her resolve to seek a divorce.

Hallinan said he had arranged for a reduced sentence for Charo, who'd been employed in the Department of Public Works' sign shop for 15 years. "I feel so horrible," Hallinan said. "I went and got him out of jail so he could keep his job with the city and keep supporting the family. And I got a restraining order. But that doesn't do much good if the person's determined like he was."

After hearing the sad news, Charo's mother, Mary, informed Hallinan that her son had tried to kill his former wife, and Hallinan discovered that Charo had been taking "mild tranquilizers" for his emotional disorders. But Noebody's Inn bartender Jeff Behney, who often shared talk and spirits with Charo, remembers him as "a nice, warm kind of human being," who stayed calm in the face of hassles in the bar.

Linda Michelson, a friend of Linda George's since their kids attended the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School nine years ago, viewed the loss as particularly tragic because Linda "was getting her life together. She'd gone back to school and gotten her nursing degree, and she was working as a nurse full-time. . . . She was starting to feel better about herself. I feel she was really cut short." Linda was 37.

Charo, recalls Michaelson, was not doing as well. "It was real hard to get him to work on things," she said. "He was drinking a lot. . . . He was obviously distraught [over the impending divorce]."

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Though the Georges were still frequent visitors to the neighborhood, they had been living with their children on Ellis Street for the past three years. The daughters — Amsha, 15, Josina, 12, and Galeana, 7 — stayed with their father's relatives immediately after the tragedy and have since been living in San Anselmo with John Yoder, their mother's

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Photo by Tom Wachs

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Condom Conversions On the Rise

By Denise Minor

This Valentine's Day, instead of the traditional box of yummy assorted chocolates or a fragrant bouquet of flowers, why not show the depth of your love for that special someone with, say, a box of flavored condoms or a bouquet of rubbers in tropical colors?

"What day is more appropriate than Valentine's Day to think about protection for the ones you love?" asks Rena Orenstein, a Noe Valley resident and director of National Condom Week, Feb. 14-21.

Love in this new age is more dangerous, says Orenstein, but it doesn't have to be. With the advent of the birth control pill and the diaphragm, condoms were considered outmoded until recently, when the increased risk of disease involved in sex brought them once again to the forefront.

The venereal disease chlamydia, herpes and, worst of all, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), are on the rise in every sector of the population, said Orenstein. Over 27,000 people in the U.S. have AIDS and nearly 16,000 have died from it. And the rate at which heterosexuals contract the virus has doubled in the past year, she pointed out. Orenstein added that every year there are between three and four million new cases of chlamydia. And every year for the past decade there has been a 10 percent increase in the number of unwanted pregnancies.

All these maladies can be avoided with the practice of safe sex, and resting as the cornerstone for most safe sex guidelines is the good ol' condom.

The Use of the Condom

This poem, composed by Voice staff writer Jane Underwood, was featured in the play *Fetal Positions*, performed by Lilith Theatre in 1984.

*You know the use of the condom.
The condom, my daughter,
is the law and prophets.*

*You know the use of the condom.
The condom, my dear,
is the sheath on a spear.*

*The condom, some say,
is an English invention
"to put the fair sex
under shelter from fear."*

*The condom, fair sister,
les calottes d'assurances,
those caps made of
fine seamless membrane.
The condom, my daughter,
une vetement anglaise
qui met les ames en repos.*

*Lamp, calf or goat,
a piece of intestine
cleaned, dried and rubbed
with fine oil and bran.*

*Lamb, calf or linen
soaked in solution,
dried in the shade,
cut to cover the glans.*

*The use of the condom,
my daughter,
how did it begin?
Some offer the slaughter-house
theory of origin:*

*A medieval butcher
while dodging the clap,
by trial and by error
happened on genius—
he covered his penis.*



ILLUSTRATION BY SUSAN KOOP

Many people complain that rubbers take away sensation or are awkward to bring into a sexual situation. But Orenstein explained that during the last few years manufacturers have improved and expanded their selections of condoms to the point that using a rubber in sex no longer feels like using the finger of a playtex glove.

"They come ribbed, with little dots that create sensation, tapered from Japan, lubricated, flavored, in tropical colors, in latex or natural skins," she said. "Everyone should be able to find a rubber they like."

With a little practice and imagination, lovers can become quite happy using condoms. "It's a challenge to your creativity. That's the fun part," she said. "You don't have to be serious."

To help lovers get more from their condoms, Orenstein recommends the "Playshops" offered by the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality. Who should use condoms and find out more about safe sex? "Anyone in a sexual relationship, unless they can account for their partner's whereabouts in the last 10 years," she said.

Teaching people about condoms is catching on. KRON-TV (Channel 4) in San Francisco has joined a handful of other stations nationwide in lifting its ban on condom advertisements, the first of which will begin airing soon.

And if some educators have their way, teenagers in schools will start learning more about AIDS prevention. A study published in the December issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* showed that although most San Francisco teens know that AIDS can be sexually transmitted, only 60 percent know that using condoms during sex decreases the risk substantially.

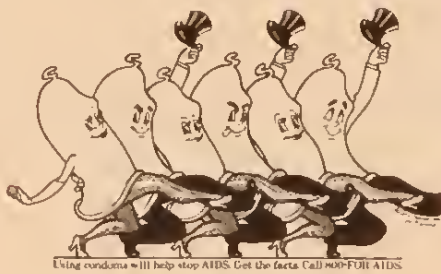
Using drama to teach kids safe sex is the method of another concerned Noe Valley resident, actress and former artistic director of Lilith Theater, Harriet Schiffer.

In high school seminars and workshops, Schiffer draws students into thinking about sexuality through role-playing and pretend situations. "The greatest problem with teens is their reluctance and embarrassment to bring up birth control with their partners," said Schiffer. "There is a fear among young women that if they come prepared, their partner will think they're a tramp or they lack spontaneity."

But she believes young people can be very open to sex education if it's presented in a non-threatening way. And at the center of her presentations is the condom. "For a long time it was easier to think about using the pill," said Schiffer. "Now, of course, all education should emphasize condoms."

Schiffer also likes to educate adults through one-woman or small-cast productions on various aspects of sexuality. *Breeding Grounds*, performed in parks throughout the city two years ago, focused mainly on reproductive rights. Schiffer ended the play with an audience participation game. Hoopa hoops representing ovaries were placed at one end of the field. Participants had to stand behind a line, representing a womb, at the field's

other end. Then they had to make a mad dash for the ovaries, but if one of the actors (sperm) caught them, they had three seconds to decide for or against an abortion. If they chose against it or couldn't decide, they went to the sidelines as an unwanted pregnancy. But one of the ways to keep from getting



**SAFE SEX
IS GREAT SEX**

caught, and thus avoid the dilemma, was to shout out "Condom!"

And for Orenstein too, fun is the best

way to educate. During the week after Valentine's Day, her office is sponsoring a number of events such as the Condom Couplet Contest. Last year's entries included these dandies: "Rubberizing copulation/Puts a cap on population" and "When you rise./Condomize."

At the University of California, Berkeley, where National Condom Week started in 1979 with the help of student David Mayer, the celebration is a real bust. Students hold a Dik-a-thon, which involves tossing water-filled condoms, a Pregnant Man Contest, a Blow-Up-the-Condom-Until-It-Bursts Contest and a Pin the Condom on the Man Contest.

Last year there were only 15 participants in National Condom Week, said Orenstein, who runs the show out of an office in Oakland. But this year, over 100 universities, health agencies, counties, cities and other organizations are sponsoring a condom week with guidance from her office, and the calls keep coming.

"A southern Illinois university is developing a survey of students about condom attitudes," she said. "And in a University of Nebraska contest, students can guess how many condoms are in a large jar."

National Condom Week is sponsored by the Pharmacists' Planning Service, a non-profit organization probably best known for its pregnant man posters advocating male responsibility for birth control. The office was able to expand this year because of a grant from Mayer Laboratories (yes, the same family as Berkeley alumnus David Mayer), which promotes condoms from Japan.

For Noe Valley residents who want to get into the swing of condom week, Orenstein says they can visit almost any local university campus or watch for volunteers from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at Muni stops who will be dressed in funny costumes and passing out literature about safe sex.

For more information, call National Condom Week at 891-0455 or the AIDS Foundation at 864-4376. □

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Local Liquor Stores Stung by Under-age Decoy Program

By Denise Minor

During the last six months of 1986, a police sting operation netted 48 stores in the Mission District, including at least seven in Noe Valley, for selling alcohol to under-age decoys.

Since it was started by the state Alcoholic Beverage Control board (ABC) last July, the decoy program has snared about 300 of the 1,400 shops licensed to sell alcohol in San Francisco, said ABC Enforcement Supervisor Manuel Diaz.

But some of the store owners, who must pay a fine or close temporarily if they are caught selling to persons under 21, are miffed that the police set-up was done at peak business hours and that the decoys looked old for their age.

"We make it a point not to sell to minors," said Ron Kuchac, co-owner of St. Clair's Liquors at 3900 24th St. Kuchac's partner was cited for a Sept. 16 sale to a minor. "But under a certain amount of stress... when you're doing a lot of business, answering questions, someone can slip through the line."

Kuchac's partner Jean Madrieres said that the police decoy, a young woman, came in to buy beer at about 3:30 p.m., when there were four or five customers in the small store. "I thought she was over 21," he said.

Rather than pay a hefty fine, St. Clair's

owners chose to close down for five days from Jan. 8-12 as their penalty, plus fork over a \$250 police fee. The other option would have been to pay an amount that, according to Diaz, ranges from \$300 to \$1,500, depending on the business's gross sales.

Diaz said he could not estimate how much money had been generated by the 300 San Francisco stores that had been fined. The money goes to the state general fund, not the ABC, he added.

Kuchac said St. Clair's would have had to pay 20 percent of the store's gross sales for five days. Since their profit is 25 percent, he and his partner felt it was not worth opening. "We took a forced vacation," he said.

For Kuchac, it was also a matter of principle. He didn't like the idea of the government making money through a sting operation like the one used. "This is bureaucracy at its worst," he said. "I don't know what good they think will come of this."

Kuchac explained that he had always been very careful, and often carded people well over 21 years old. But at 56 years of age, he thinks almost everyone looks young, he said, and under the perfect conditions, he too could slip up.

Kuchac stopped short of calling the decoy program entrapment, but he does believe there are better ways to stop al-

cohol consumption by juveniles, such as cracking down on stores that knowingly sell to minors.

"If the police hadn't sent someone in, we never would have broken the law," he said.

Mission District Permit Officer Ray Benson said his station had nothing to do with planning the sting, but acted upon city orders to participate. "We didn't coordinate this whole thing," he said. "We were on the tail end of it."

Benson said, however, he was shocked at the number of shop owners cited—almost a quarter of the 225 operating in the Mission Police District.

He added that the Vice Squad had sent the decoys, who were all members of the Police Cadets, an organization of young men and women interested in law enforcement. The cadets volunteer to work in the permit bureau, ride along in patrol cars, play on athletic leagues and participate in sting operations such as this. The youths are always accompanied by two plain-clothes officers, he said.

Fred Masarweh, who owns Nader Grocery at 499 Douglass St., described his sting last autumn. "They came at 4:30 in the afternoon. The boy looked older than 21," he said. "I was very busy doing many things. Then, when the policeman said, 'You're under arrest,' the boy fled the store and the police didn't show me

the I.D. of that boy. . . . They didn't convince me that he was under 21."

Masarweh chose to pay the fine, which will be decided by a court in Sacramento after Masarweh's accountant makes the store's records public.

And Masarweh thinks the real problem is adults who buy alcohol for under-age friends. "I see it happen on the street all the time," he said.

Jai Lee, whose father owns Modern Market at 1401 Church St., was also arrested for sale to a minor, but believes the bust was unjust. "It's not fair. They choose young people who look older. . . . He [the decoy] was very tall and strong with a mustache. He looked 25 years old," said Lee.

Benson said the other Noe Valley shops caught were Nucchio's Deli at 649 Diamond, Parkside Foods at 746 Douglass, J & A Market at 901 Castro and TJ's Market at 1351 Market.

From the ABC's point of view, Diaz said, it is just this type of corner Ma and Pa store that is selling a good share of alcohol to kids across the state. In cities where the sting was carried out, he noted, police have cited between 30 and 35 percent of all stores licensed to sell alcohol.

Diaz refuted claims that the police cadets used in the sting looked old for their age. "I've read in the newspapers that some store owners claim we were sending in people who were 19 but looked 25," he said. "That is totally wrong. We look for minors who look their age."

"If the minor is an older-looking person, we won't file an accusation."

But Officer Benson seems to see both sides of the issue. He is sympathetic to the store owners but believes the state's drinking age limit must be strictly enforced. "It's not the biggest crime in the world," he said. "But then on the other hand, the store owners have got to stop thinking about dollars and think about the kids they're selling to." □

• George Deaths •

Continued from Page 2

brother, and with Linda's sister, Helen Merrick, in Terra Linda. Neither brother nor sister were aware of the depth of their sibling's marital troubles. "She always kept very much to herself," said Merrick.

With Hallinan's help, Yoder will become the children's guardian and will collect benefits for them from Linda's insurance and Charo's pension. Hallinan will also apply for monies available under California's Witness/Victim Program. Hallinan and Yoder have established a trust account, which received \$6,000 in contributions at Linda's memorial service last month, mostly from her colleagues at French Hospital. And Charo's co-workers have set up an account in the children's name at the Department of Public Works' credit union.

"What a lesson it is to me," says Hallinan, "about how you have to take spousal abuse seriously." But he sees a heartening example in the support offered the children by both Charo's and Linda's relatives. "It gives me hope for the American family."

Besides her daughters and Yoder and Merrick, Linda is survived by her parents and another sister, Elaine. Charo is survived by his mother and grandmother in Vallejo, his father in New York, a sister in Richmond, and a brother in San Diego.

Friends should send donations to the George Children Trust Fund in care of John Yoder, 145 Meadowcroft Drive, San Anselmo, CA 94960. □



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Discrimination Against Gays Takes on a New Form—Insurance Applications

By Annie Stuart

David Hurlbert never really thought too much about health insurance; he'd always been covered by his employers. In October of 1985, however, Hurlbert became a consultant and things changed. Now he was responsible for his insurance coverage. So he went to an insurance broker and got what he thought was the best deal for his money.

Through an inadvertence, Hurlbert missed a payment and his insurance was cut off, sending him back to the broker once again.

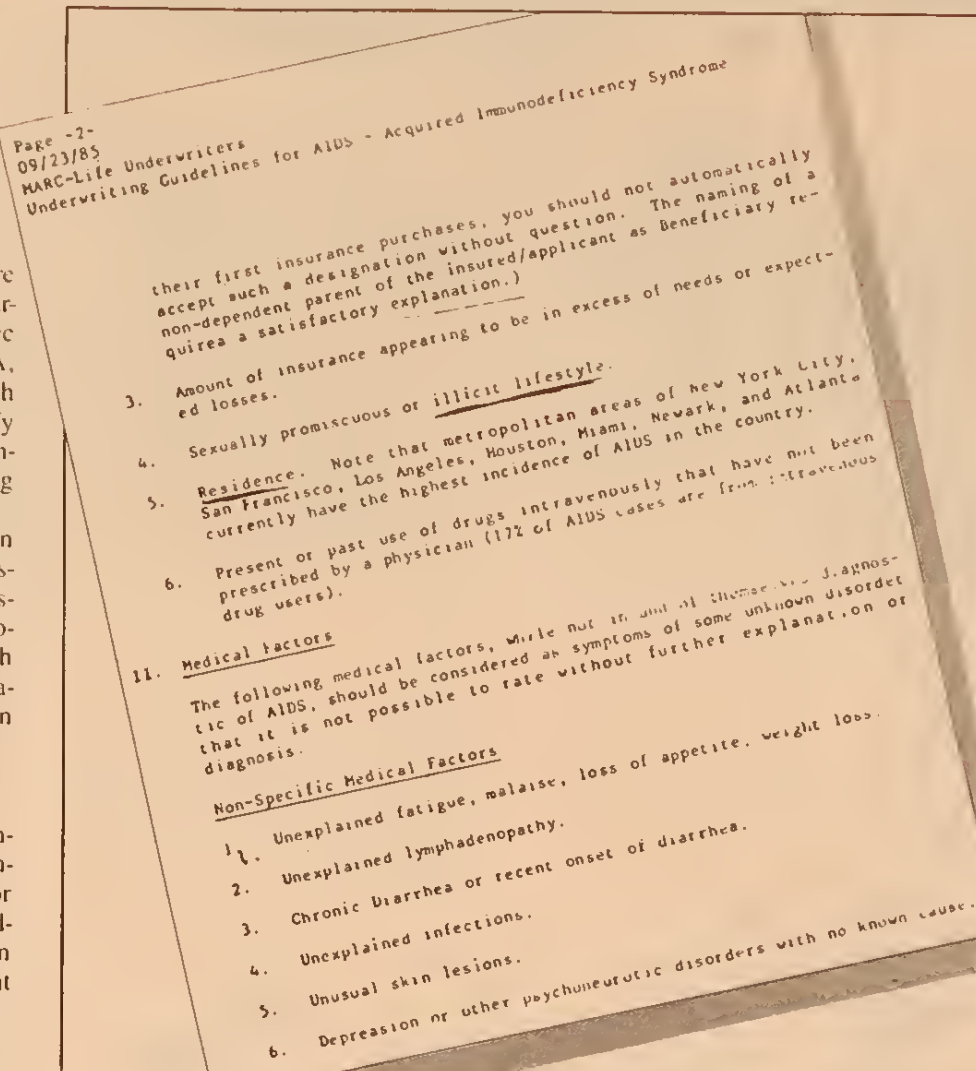
Renewing his policy, though, was not a simple matter of refiling an application or even of paying higher premiums. Great Republic Insurance Company, he learned, was now requiring completion of a supplemental questionnaire by "single males without dependents" working in "occupations that do not require physical exertion" such as "restaurant employees, antique dealers, interior decorators, consultants, florists, and people in the jewelry or fashion business."

Like Hurlbert, many gay men are finding that obtaining health or life insurance is not the routine procedure it once might have been. According to NGRA, some insurance companies are using both medical and lifestyle criteria to identify and reject gay applicants, although ostensibly their goal is only to avoid insuring individuals at high risk for AIDS.

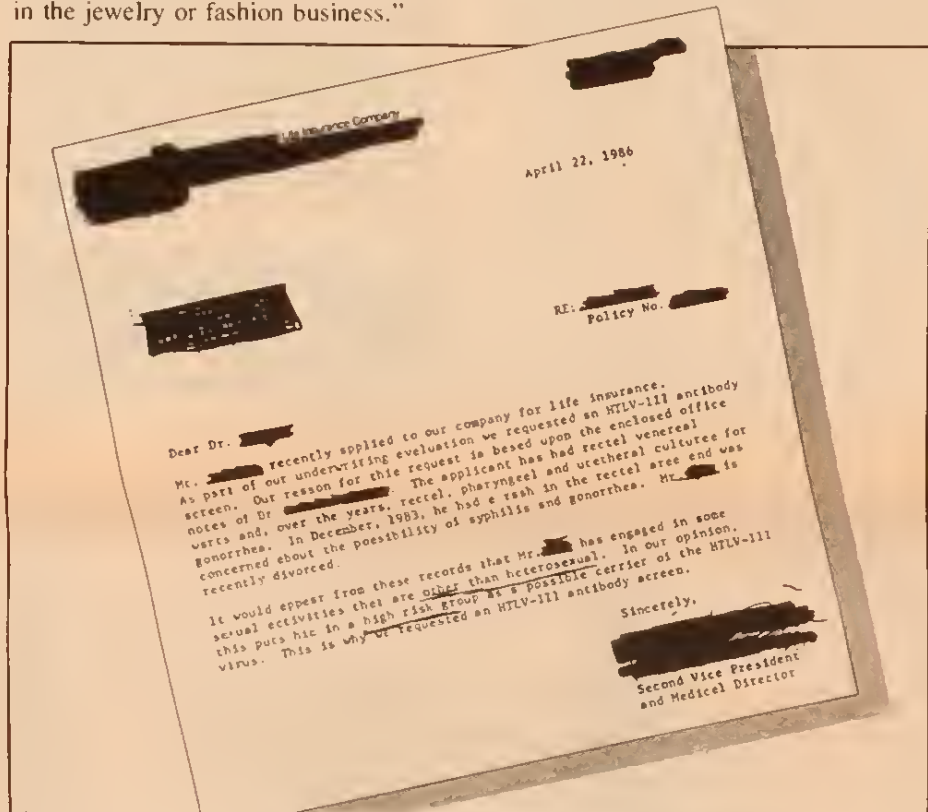
A position paper published jointly in December by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and NGRA says discriminatory practices ranged from "proposing the rejection of applicants with 'illicit lifestyles'" to "suggesting declination of single males who live in certain zip codes."

Redlining San Francisco

Brent Nance, a Los Angeles-based insurance broker and president of Concerned Insurance Professionals for Human Rights, says he doesn't think redlining by zip code is happening much in the life and health insurance field, but "redlining by demographics" is.



The "non-medical factors" set down in this interoffice memo may lead the insurance company's underwriters to make discriminatory assumptions about applicants who deviate from the sexual "norm."



This memo to a medical practitioner is symptomatic of some insurance companies' efforts to avoid issuing policies to gays.

"I was still laughing as the broker read me the questions I was supposed to answer," says the 31-year-old Mission District resident. They were: Have you suffered any deviation from good health in the last six months? Have you noticed a weight gain or loss of 10 pounds or more in the past year? Have you ever been tested or been advised to be tested for a sexually transmitted disease?

A "yes" answer to any of the three questions resulted in denial of coverage. "I was scared and outraged," says Hurlbert. "I said, 'I'm not hilling this thing out.'" And he didn't. Instead he filed a lawsuit.

Hurlbert Sues

The \$10 million lawsuit, filed in S.F. Superior Court in May of 1986 by Hurlbert and the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), charges that Great Republic discriminated against gay men in its attempt to screen for AIDS. The case is still being litigated, but defense attorney John Chakmak says the company eliminated the special questionnaire and redesigned its application late last year with respect to AIDS.

Chakmak explained that Great Republic was now operating with the "advantage of hindsight," whereas earlier the insurance industry had no satisfactory AIDS screening criteria. Great Republic, therefore, had developed a profile of potential AIDS applicants based on only nine AIDS-related claims filed by its insureds.

"If there were redlining, it would be all of San Francisco, not just the 94114 zip code," says Nance. "Insurance companies realize they can't pick out gays

by the neighborhood. Instead, they're screening single males and treating their applications very differently."

Peter Groom, spokesperson for the California Department of Insurance, also "has heard many allegations about zip code redlining," but says that hard evidence is lacking.

"A person once told me that a major Eastern insurance company was not issuing insurance to San Franciscans," Groom says, but he never heard anything more after he asked the person to bring him documentation.

(In the related field of health maintenance organizations, however, NGRA recently filed a \$500,000 consumer fraud complaint against HealthAmerica. According to Joanna Baugh, a former employee, company supervisors told her to hide all San Francisco applications in a desk drawer. The applicants were later rejected for "medical reasons." A spokesperson for HealthAmerica said she couldn't comment on the case "until investigations are completed.")

Cases of insurance redlining may be difficult to pin down, but Groom has seen other kinds of insurance discrimination and has received about 25 complaints of

alleged discrimination in the past six months.

Groom cites a case where a life insurance applicant named his roommate as beneficiary.

"The insurance company said there was no insurable interest on the part of this beneficiary," says Groom, explaining that "insurable interest" means the beneficiary will suffer a loss if the insured person dies. "But very clearly he had an insurable interest," says Groom, because the two were business partners and also had invested jointly in several classic cars and a mobile home.

Although "lack of insurable interest" was the professed justification for denial, the internal insurance report suggested an ulterior motive. Referring to the living arrangements of the two men, the report read, in part, "This was cause for one criticism under the title of morals, described above. Residential informant felt that the applicant was a little too close to his partner."

The company later was forced to issue the policy.

According to the NGRA's paper, insurance carriers have not only used lifestyle

Continued on Page 6

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• Is Insurance Redlining a Reality? •

Continued from Page 5

criteria to identify gay men, but declined applications based on medical information—such as a history of anal gonorrhea—that may indicate an applicant is a gay male. Applicants who appear to have a *heterosexually* transmitted disease, however, are not given the same scrutiny.

Using Test Results

In some respects, though, the medical confidentiality of Californians is protected with respect to AIDS. The AIDS Testing Law, which has been in effect the last couple of years, prohibits HTLV-III testing of unconsenting individuals and prohibits the use of test results by insurers or employers. The T-cell test, a medical test that indicates immune deficiency, may be used by insurers, however.

Lew Keller, president of the Association of California Life Insurance Companies, says the AIDS Testing Law "results in more people being denied insurance" because the T-cell test picks up "any immunity weakness."

Keller says the HTLV-III (also called ELISA) test would be a more accurate screen for AIDS and would be cheaper for insurance companies, but adds that testing should be done "statewide or not at all."

Carl Heinmann, a San Francisco agent for SPWM Insurance Brokers, says the AIDS Testing Law is less than foolproof with regard to confidentiality, especially since insurance companies are no longer settling for "attending physician statements," but instead are "sending over people to Xerox the entire medical file" of an applicant.

"When you sign on the line, you're authorizing your medical records to go out into the streets," says Heinmann, explaining that few doctors segregate HTLV-III test results from the rest of the file.

"Technically, insurance companies can't use the test, but it still influences their decision. If they see that you tried speed at an Aretha Franklin concert in 1973, they'll just dig deeper until they find something to confirm their prejudices," says Heinmann.

Getting past the insurance companies' initial screening is only the first hurdle, says Heinmann. Due to what's called a two-year contestability clause, insurers in California can rescind their contracts if they later find evidence indicating a pre-existing condition of ARC (Aids Related Condition) or AIDS.

Just a Runny Nose?

Heinmann gives the hypothetical example of a person who obtains health insurance and later develops AIDS. His insurer looks back over his records and finds that the man was once treated for a runny nose, which triggers cancellation of the policy. The question is, says Heinmann, was it really a precursor to AIDS or just a runny nose?

Berkeley attorney Alice Philipson dealt with this very question while representing the plaintiff in the case of *William Horner v. Great Republic Insurance Company*. Horner was diagnosed with AIDS 17 days after his policy went into effect, at which time the contract was rescinded.

"This was a test case on the issue of whether an insurance company can impose the pre-existing condition clause on a disease that has a five-year incubation period, a period during which you don't know you have AIDS," says Philipson.

The *Horner* case doesn't hold the force of law since Philipson won a settlement last fall before the case went to trial. This resulted in the insurance company reversing its decision and offering coverage. Horner died two weeks later.

Many of these insurance cases underscore the persistent misconception linking AIDS only with gays, says Nance.

"The insurance industry has to recognize that this is not a white, male

homosexual disease," he says. "Then they can deal with it in a non-discriminatory manner."

Hurlbert agrees: "All I would ask is, if you're going to screen for AIDS, screen everyone. Black people have a higher probability of heart disease, but it would be considered outrageous, blatant discrimination if only black people were screened [for heart disease]."

Insurance discrimination, however, has ramifications beyond the industry, according to some. If employers think gays are uninsurable, for example, "they'll refuse to hire people who they think are gay because they don't want to pay the medical costs," says Nance, a Los Angeles broker.



Others say that discrimination based on sexual orientation will drive gays into the closet, thereby inhibiting AIDS education by doctors and further threatening the public health.

Underlying many of these issues, also, is the question of who's going to pay for the AIDS crisis—the individual, the taxpayer, or the insurance industry?

"What do we do with people who fall outside the insurance system?" asks Nance, referring to the large numbers who may not be discriminated against, but who have, nevertheless, contracted the deadly disease. "You can't allow coverage for someone with AIDS, yet deny it for someone biopsied for cancer."

But when insurance companies reduce their risks, says SPWM broker Heinmann, the burden falls back on the general public.

"If they [insurance companies] aren't going to pay, who is?" asks Heinmann. "Someone has to pay the bill, unless we're willing to let them die on the streets." □


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• Inflated Homes •

Continued from Page 1

years, is typical of those who've been forced to buy elsewhere. He's now about to purchase his first home in the Ingleside District.

"Two thirds of the city, the northern half, is out of reach for most first-time buyers," Goldherg says. "It's the lower part of the city [Excelsior, Ingleside, etc.] that's most affordable. In Noe Valley, the cheapest home we saw was \$210,000. That's seventy thousand more than we're paying."

Goldberg is sorry to say goodbye to Noe Valley, but takes a philosophical view: "Even though our new neighborhood has considerably less charm, at least we can still walk to a BART station."

Anne Burke saved \$50,000 on the price of her first home by moving one mile east from her 25th Street apartment to her new residence on Shotwell Street in the Mission District. Burke misses the "atmosphere" of Noe Valley, but as a single, working mother of one, she felt she was being squeezed out by "BMW's and yuppies without families."

While there aren't significant price differences for comparable homes within Noe Valley, Hersh says property north of 24th Street is often "a bit more expensive" than lower-lying property to the south because of views; also there are more large single-family houses to the north. Multi-unit buildings, which are in less demand, are found more frequently south of 24th Street.

Besides the "view factor," Hersh says,



Real estate seems less and less real to ordinary folks who'd like to set up housekeeping in Noe Valley. McGuire Realty is asking \$399,000 for the two two-bedroom units at 1617-19 Sanchez St. (left). For the restored "designer-quality" Victorian at 1504 Sanchez St. (right), B.J. Droubi wants \$269,000. PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

"Garages are getting to be a big deal, and it's still a family neighborhood, so yards make a difference, too. Noe Valley people are buying to stay. It's the same sort of cycle that we had 20 to 30 years ago, when people bought their first homes here and stayed."

If you're wondering what it takes to qualify for a home loan, Al Rosen of Zephyr says, "A good rule of thumb is to have your [monthly] income be at least three times your [monthly] house payment." Lenders "worry" when a borrower has to spend more than a third of his income on mortgage payments, he says.

So, assuming you can afford 20 percent down on a \$200,000 house (that will be forty thousand dollars, please), the remaining \$160,000 will have to be financed. That loan, spread out over 30 years at, say, nine percent interest, will cost the borrower around \$1,300 per month. Your income, therefore, must be in the minimum range of \$3,900 per month ($3 \times \$1,300 = \$3,900$) if not slightly more to cover taxes, insurance, etc.

It's true that most of a new home buyer's monthly payment is tax-deductible interest, but in order to qualify for that degree of "debt burden," the borrower (or household, if the property is to be jointly owned) should earn at least three times the payment.

"Adjustable loans are generally easier to qualify for than fixed-rate loans," notes Rosen, and he advises the prospective home buyer "to shop around" for the best loan interest rates and most accommodating lending institution.

One way to avoid qualifying problems altogether is to offer 30 percent or more as a down payment. This hefty chunk of cash is generally too much for a loan officer to resist, so the mortgage has a good chance of getting approved.

But no matter how you cut it—whether with a big sum up-front or smaller increments paid over several years—it takes a lot of money to buy a home in Noe Valley. And that's an amount that many of us may never be able to scrape together. □

Noe Valley Vignettes



Illustration by Florence Holub

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Time has wrought changes on architecture and landscaping, but a sharp-eyed Voice reader was able to tell that the 1930s photo of an automobile accident (left), supplied by the Noe Valley Archives and published in the November issue of our paper, does not depict

Army Street, as our caption claimed. Rather, it shows Folsom Street between Precita and Ripley. If you examine the contemporary photos of Folsom Street (center) and Army Street (right), you might even make the same mistake again. PHOTOS BY LARRY BERESFORD

Sorry, Wrong Street: 8 Blocks and 5 Decades Away

By Larry Beresford

The photograph of a San Francisco street scene and automobile accident, circa 1930, which the Voice had borrowed from the Noe Valley Archives, was misidentified in the November 1986 issue. A letter to the Voice signed by Eileen C. claimed that the front-page photo, labeled as Army Street between Sanchez and Noe, was, in fact, a view of Folsom Street between Precita and Ripley, on the north slope of Bernal Heights. And she was right.

"Our family home is in the picture to the near-left at the bottom of the dirt hill on Ripley Street—the big white house with all the windows," Eileen wrote.

Although the slope of Army Street bears a superficial resemblance to the archival photograph (see above, left), the row of houses at the left of the old picture clearly matches the east side of Folsom Street, starting with the house at 3273 Folsom St.

Paul Kantus, a leader of the Noe Valley Archives' efforts to gather neighborhood historical materials, said that the photo mislabeled as Army Street had been donated anonymously and that the Archives' organizers hadn't verified its identity.

Although signs of the 1930s are clearly recognizable on Folsom Street today, the current photo (above, center) affords a glimpse of how the neighborhood has evolved over the past 57 years. Once

bare of shrubbery, the boulevard is now planted with trees that obscure the facades of some of the houses. A wooden fence at the left of the picture has been replaced by a chain link fence. (The fence surrounds a basketball court adjoining the Immaculate Conception Church at 3255 Folsom St.)

Some of the Victorian architectural embellishments of the 1930s have been stripped off, reflecting the preference for unadorned stucco in the 1940s and '50s. Also, two of the houses with steep peaked roofs in the old photo now have squared-off second floors and "flat-tops."

The Voice would like to publish other "before" and "after" photographs, preferably of Noe Valley, in future issues. If

you have any old pictures cluttering up the attic, please let us know. (Write the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.) We promise to verify its authenticity before claiming it for the neighborhood. Sorry, Folsom Street, and thank you, Eileen C., for pointing out our mistake. □



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Physical comedian Geoff Hoyle invites you to join him at the Noe Valley Ministry on the evening of Feb. 14

Ruth's Show

Black Mountain College in Georgia was a haven for artists in the 1950s and '60s, with a faculty that included such visionaries as Josef Albers and Buckminster Fuller. Among those who studied there was sculptor Ruth Asawa, who now resides with her husband, Black Mountain alumnus Al Lanier, on the slopes of Castro Street.

Through Feb. 17, City College's Visual Arts Department will exhibit some of Asawa's Black Mountain and later creations, giving a glimpse into the formative years of an artist whose sculptures grace Ghirardelli Square, the Japantown Center and the Hyatt on Union Square.

Following a reception Feb. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m., the exhibit will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call the college at 239-3308 if you need directions to the Visual Arts Building.

SHORT TAKES

Friendly Persuasion

The Friends of Noe Valley has added credibility in recent months to its reputation as the neighborhood's most active organization, collecting 11,270 pounds of trash during its Dumpster Day, petitioning the city's planning department to preserve neighborhood character, and opposing the creep of condos above Castro Street.

The Friends' potluck meeting Jan. 18 attracted city Supervisors Jim Gonzalez and Bill Maher, state Senator Milton Marks and mayoral hopeful Cesar Ascarunz. But the Friends are still trying to attract new members and participants on its Planning Committee and Restructuring Committee, which meets this week at the home of Co-President Jacques Bertrand. If you're ready and willing to help, join Bertrand *et al* at 10 a.m. on Feb. 7 for a potluck breakfast at 286 Fair Oaks St. Call 647-8985 to find out what to bring.

Nuke Free Benefit

Thirty years ago our country took the liberty of conducting nuclear tests so dangerously close to the Marshall Islands that the children living in that Pacific Ocean territory got to romp in two inches of radioactive ash fallout. This criminal situation is the subject of the documentary film *Half-Life*, to be screened at the Roxie Theater at 7 p.m. on Feb. 12 as a benefit for the Nuclear Free Zone Initiative.

If passed in the November 1987 election, the initiative will, among other things, block home-porting of the nuke-bearing battleship *Missouri* in San Fran-

cisco. The event at the Roxie, located on 16th Street near Valencia, will also feature music by the Freedom Song Network and poetry by Deetja B., as well as pep talks from Supervisor Richard Hongisto and initiative sponsor Paul Kangas. For details, call Election Action at 864-8348.

Moses Memorial

The paintings, drawings and sculptures of Stephen Moses reflect a preoccupation with a "blue shadow" of death which, as a victim of cystic fibrosis, he felt to be an integral part of his life. Moses died at age 23 last year, not from the disease but at the hands of an unknown assailant, just one block from the Galeria de la Raza, on 24th Street near the York Theater.

A memorial exhibit of Moses' work is being held at the Galeria, 2851 24th St., through Feb. 21. Many of the paintings and drawings are self-portraits and figure studies rendered in rich, healing colors. Galeria hours are 1 to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Call 826-8009 for more information.

Valentunes

Music and comedy lovers will have ample opportunity to express heartfelt emotion at the Noe Valley Music Series this month. On Feb. 7 Nancie de Ross, called by *Calendar* magazine "the best female voice in the Bay Area," presents her mix of rock and acoustic stylings. Geoff Hoyle brings a bouquet of laughs for Valentine's Day on Feb. 14. Vau-



The expressionistic images of Stephen Moses are presented in a memorial exhibit through Feb. 21 at the Galeria de la Raza.

deville Nouveau stops in Feb. 21 before departing for Lincoln Center, and Bobby McFerrin and Voicestra make a cappella magic on Feb. 22.

Finally, Windham Hill artists Night Noise prep us for St. Paddy's with their Celtic music on Feb. 28. With the exception of Voicestra's 4 p.m. performance, concerts start at 8:15 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Earlier in the evening of the 28th (at 6 p.m.), the neighborhood's own Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble will perform the sacred music of Rossini, Gounod, Mozart and Faure inside the lovely Mission Dolores at 16th and Dolores streets. The next day (March 1 at 1:30 p.m.), the Ensemble travels to the Jewish Community Center at 3200 California St., where they will present Bizet's ever-popular *Carmen*. Phone Mme. Chalis at 826-8670 for more notes.



Witnesses Still Sought in Christmas Day Homicide

By Anne Semans

San Francisco police have arrested two suspects in the Christmas morning murder of 33-year-old Keo Novang at a Eureka Valley 7-Eleven store, but are still searching for witnesses to the crime.

On Dec. 31 police booked and charged Gregory McClanahan, 30, and Joseph Boxley, 43, with one count of murder and six counts of robbery each. Both are San Francisco residents.

Novang, a Laotian immigrant, was a store clerk on duty Dec. 25 at the 7-Eleven on the corner of 18th and Noe streets. Two men with guns entered the store at 7:10 a.m. and demanded the money in the cash register, police said. Apparently dissatisfied with the \$50 in the till, the robbers asked for the key to the back room. When Novang replied that he did not have a key, one of the men shot him in the chest.

According to police, the two men then proceeded to rob and threaten three customers who were in the store, telling one, "I'll kill you if you don't have any money." The robbers walked out with a total of \$118.

The police are now looking for a couple who may be able to help identify

the robbers. A surveillance camera photographed a man and a woman who left seconds before the two men entered the store. The woman was described as black, about 30 years old, 5 foot 4 inches tall, with a short, natural hairstyle. She was wearing dark sweat pants, a dark overcoat covered by a multi-colored shawl, and white shoes. The other potential witness is a black man, about 30 years old, 5 foot 8 inches, with a short, natural hairstyle. He was wearing a two-tone ski jacket, light-colored pants and dark shoes. Anyone who thinks he or she can help locate the couple is urged to call Homicide Inspector Mike Byrne at 553-1145.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein has authorized a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of Novang's killers.

Novang, who had lived in the U.S. for less than three years, is survived by a wife and children, currently residing in Thailand. A trust fund has been set up to aid his family. Donations can be mailed to the Keo Novang Trust Fund, Bank of America, 400 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

A contributions box has also been set up at the store at 3998 18th St. □

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Nobby's So-called 'Folly' a Eureka Valley Landmark

By Larry Beresford

At 250 Douglass St. between Caselli and 20th sits a huge, cluttered and fascinating Victorian mansion known as "Nohby Clarke's Folly." The mansion is named for Alfred E. "Nobby" Clarke, a minor but intriguing character on the stage of San Francisco history.

"In his day he had played almost as unique a part in San Francisco's life as Emperor Norton," stated Clarke's 1902 newspaper obituary. However, today many questions about this unusual individual remain unanswered. Why was he called Nobby? How did he really make his fortune? And why did he decide to build his mansion in a neighborhood so sparsely settled and unfashionable that his wife reputedly refused to live there, thus leading to the building's unfortunate nickname.

Clarke was born in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1833, and arrived in San Francisco as a sailor on Nov. 30, 1850. Like many others he tried his luck gold hunting before returning to the city to work as a stevedore. According to *Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage*, by Roger Olmsted and T. H. Watkins, "Clarke's up-to-then unpromising career improved when he joined the police force during the 1856 Vigilance excitement." During that infamous era, the Committee of Vigilance—a group of prominent San Franciscans—took the law into their own hands, imprisoning, exiling and lynching suspected criminals and anyone else who crossed their path.

It is not clear what Clarke's connection to this lawlessness was. However, it is known that he got his police job by befriending the clerk of the board of supervisors and that he was bitten so badly on the hand during a waterfront confrontation with a sailor that he was reassigned to a desk job. He subsequently served as clerk to the chief of police, and after picking up a law degree, he became chief legal adviser to the department.

When Clarke retired as a civil servant in 1887, he had amassed a personal for-

tune estimated at \$200,000. He then bought 17 acres of land at the edge of Eureka Valley and erected the four-story mansion now dominating the corner of Douglass and Caselli, completed in 1891 for an estimated cost of \$100,000.

Today the mansion's Douglass Street face is hidden from the street by trees and shrubs, but the Caselli Street side presents an impressive if confused clutter of towers, gables and windows. Olmsted and Watkins describe the mansion's architectural character as eclectic Baroque-Queen Anne, which is a nice way of saying it's a hodge-podge of styles and influences, with the corner domed towers characteristic of the romantic Queen Anne style. The pillared porch entrance is flanked by two "candle-snuffer" domes, and a more impressive domed turret stands hidden behind the trees. Surmounting each dome is a ball covered with 23-karat gold.

After his mansion was finished, Nohby Clarke continued to work as a lawyer. He was reputedly jailed for contempt of court more often than any other lawyer in the country, because of his outlandish lawsuits. In 1896 he filed for bankruptcy and moved to 1200 Masonic, where he lived until his death. Clarke was survived by his status-seeking wife, whose name, unfortunately, does not appear in the history books.

In 1904, the mansion had become the California General Hospital, advertised at the time as "an excellent and commodious hospital," with large grounds "sheltered from the cold west wind." Later, it was a rooming house for Standard Oil employees, and in 1909 the Caselli Mansion, as it's sometimes called today, was converted to apartments.

The building became a city landmark in 1975, and was famous for its Christmas and Halloween parties during the 1960s and '70s. At Christmas each of its 14 apartments would be decorated in a different Christmas-related theme. Current owner Al Baum bought the house in 1977.

Baum, an aspiring psychotherapist who lives elsewhere in San Francisco, also owns several other apartment buildings.



Nobby's Folly on Douglass Street is a four-story monument to eclectic architecture and Gay Nineties opulence. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

"Old things like Victorian houses interest me," he says, adding that he couldn't help but take great pride in a house as spectacular as the Clarke mansion. "However, people don't realize the enormous cost of upkeep."

Last fall Baum hired Noe Valley resident Bruce Nelson, who owns the firm Local Color, to help in restoring and repainting his historic building.

For the past six months, Nelson, who describes himself as a "house doctor," has been working "to find and solve the problems inherent in a 107-year-old building." He has stripped the paint down to the bare wood on the exposed southern side, as well as patched, primed and painted the walls. The front steps also needed replacement, as did some of the shingles and windows. The front door was stripped and refinished, and leaks in

the copper roofing over the portico were repaired. In addition, European gold leaf was applied to the balls over the corner domes, Nelson said.

Another challenge posed by the mansion was "bird control," so the work crew installed nixolite, stainless steel wire mesh, to discourage the perching of pigeons. "We also hauled out about 200 pounds of pigeon shit—a terrible job. That's the down side of this work," Nelson said.

But, all and all, Nelson and his co-renovators "were very charged up by this job because it's such a famous historical building."

Given current tastes and property values in Eureka Valley, one can't help but wonder if Nohby Clarke's wife would now be more appreciative of her husband's magnificent folly. □



Bruce Nelson has set his Local Color business to the long-term task of restoring and repainting the 107-year-old homestead of one of San Francisco's most colorful historical figures, Nobby Clarke. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.



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'Sick Childcare' Worries Give Working Parents a Headache

By Jane Underwood

Most working parents go through three stages when their 4-year-old catches a bug.

First, there's denial. "C'mon, Billy, quit stalling. Get your shoes on! Hurry up, or you'll be late for nursery school!" No, those spots can't possibly be chicken pox! Yeah, they look like spider mites. "Stop sniffing!"

Then, the "why me?" stage. *This can't be happening. The new system goes on line today. I've gotta be there or my boss will never forgive me.*

And then finally, acquiescence. "I'm sorry, honey, I'm not upset with you. Why don't you get back in bed, all warm and cozy. I have to make some phone calls."

By the time they've reached the third stage, they've faced the grim reality: if their kid gets sick, they'll take off work and stay home—what else can they do?

The Children's Council of San Francisco, located at 24th and Sanchez streets, recently polled 79 San Francisco parents of children under 12 in an effort to answer that very question: what else *can* they do? The study, "Sick Childcare—A Survey of Need," clearly indicates that working parents consider this issue to be an urgent one.

Single-parent households, as well as families where both parents work, are grappling with economic demands that force them to work even when their children are very young (81 percent of the children in the study were under 5). And these young children, many of whom are in childcare up to 50 hours a week, constantly pass around colds, ear infections and other highly contagious illnesses.

Since most childcare programs don't accept sick kids, and most employers frown on employees using their own sick leave for sick kid care (61 percent do not allow it), parents must come up with their own solutions. The majority of moms and dads (70 percent) stay home with their children; but only 34 percent are allowed by their employers to do this. The rest, although already facing the tough demands of combining work and parenting, must also face the pressure of lying to their bosses, or of telling the truth and having their paycheck docked.

Lindy Brown, a working Noe Valley mother, describes her own recent experience when her son Walker, 3, got the chicken pox. "I went into work the first day, so I could break it to them in person that I was going to be out for a week, which was terrible, because the place I work for is very small, and if one person is missing, everybody else has to do your work."

"I work for the city, and I do have sick pay," Brown adds. "But I did have to offer to come in at night to do my work. I told them I'd be available from 6 to 10 p.m. every night. And I never could have

cut that deal at all if I were a single parent!"

Brown's situation is also difficult because she's the only person at her job who has a small child. "Your co-workers have to be sympathetic, but you can tell that their idea of what's happening is that you're getting time off and aren't you lucky. They don't understand that here you've got this itchy, irritable, sick kid—it isn't exactly summer camp!"

As for those parents who don't stay at home, 18½ percent rely on relatives, friends, roommates and neighbors, and 10 percent use babysitters.

The upshot is that most working parents lose valuable work time when their children get sick. And for some employees, losing that time may mean not only losing money, but also a job. The Children's Council's survey concluded that a need for special sick childcare services definitely existed, and suggested some alternatives for parents to consider.

When asked whether they would prefer "a caregiver coming to the home," "a 'sick bay' in the child's regular childcare situation" or "a special sick childcare center just for sick children," parents overwhelmingly opted for in-home care. Exposing children to bad weather and/or other sick children, as well as transportation hassles, were all seen as possible "side effects" of the other methods. Also, most parents wanted their children to be in a familiar environment during a time of stress.

Jeanne Bordeaux, a family daycare provider in Noe Valley, agrees with these parents. "The biggest risk is infection of the other children, and also the infection of the main caregiver, because if the caregiver gets sick, then it costs the caregiver money to either hire someone else, or shut down—and then everybody's stuck!"

"When I have five kids and they all have runny noses, I'm blowing noses almost all the time, and when I'm not blowing noses, I'm changing diapers!" says Bordeaux. "I can't wash my hands that many times! So it's almost impossible not to infect, and then reinfect. Last year there was an entire month or more when the kids were continually reinfecting each other."

"Also," adds Bordeaux, "when someone's getting over a cold or flu or fever, they might feel okay, but they need to rest. And they don't get a chance to rest when they're in the group, because everybody's running around; it's a case of conflicting interests. They really should be still, sitting down or playing quietly for another day or so, in order to get over the illness quickly."

Parents, according to Bordeaux, also have conflicting interests. "Either they're going to lose money by not working, or they're going to pay extra to hire somebody to come into their home—if they can even find an available person. And I think that's when they decide to become



Lindy Brown had no choice but to take off work and stay home with 3-year-old Walker when her son had the chickenpox last month. Brown, along with a majority of working parents surveyed by the San Francisco Children's Council, are looking for some new answers to the "sick childcare" dilemma. PHOTO BY TINA WENDT.

'unconscious' and ignore the early signs of illness. For example, one parent brought a child in and just mentioned briefly that he'd thrown up that morning but seemed to be feeling okay. Well, later in the day, it was really a mess. And at that stage, the child is very contagious, and it's tough to keep all the kids away. Plus the child doesn't feel well, wants to be held. It's just real hard."

Could parents pay for in-home childcare services if they were available? Surprisingly, 85 percent of those surveyed said they would be willing to pay \$3-\$5 an hour for such a service; 87 percent of these people said they could afford between \$3 and \$5 per hour; 13 percent said they could not. All 85 percent, whether able to pay or not, showed a strong desire to try to meet their children's needs without disrupting their own work.

"Clearly, something needs to happen to alleviate the pressures on these families, to help in developing better working and family lives," says Marian McDonald, program manager at the Children's Council.

She adds that "an in-home childcare referral service, with costs defrayed by employers, would be a good place to

start. We would like to develop a pilot program of this nature in the near future, testing out what we hope will be an important new alternative for children of working parents."

For Bordeaux, however, "the real problem is how employers view working parents. We need legislation to give parents more room. It should be a valid thing to not come in to work if your kid is ill; get a note from your doctor to verify it, whatever."

"If it were woven deeply enough into the fabric of our society, assistance and coverage for wages could come from the state, the money the people have put in. In smaller businesses, part-time workers could take up the slack when a fulltime employee takes off."

"If employers put it in their heads that they're hiring people with children, and that there are going to be times when those people can't come to work because of sick kids, then we'd be moving toward the ideal solution. We're not going to stop having kids, so what else *can* we do?"

For more information on sick childcare options, or for copies of the survey on sick childcare needs, contact the Children's Council of San Francisco, 3896 24th St. (phone: 826-1130). □

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Samba Transplanted From Brazil and Thriving in S.F.

By Jeff Kaliss

Que e samba?

As this Brazilian dance form grows ever more popular, so grows the variety of answers to the question: what is samba?

For 24th Street resident Jan Luby, the samba classes she takes at the Women's Building on 18th Street are like a therapy which "keeps my sanity."

For Alfonso Nevarez, who studies samba with other first- and second-graders at the Buena Vista School on Noe Street, it's an opportunity to learn Portuguese and giggle at the girls doing their *mexe* (hip-circles).

For the customers who flock to Bajone's club on Valencia Street every Thursday night to dance, samba is a chance to sweat, socialize, and see a damn good show.

At the center of the local samba scene are the Escola Nova de Samba, which teaches the dance and performs at clubs and fairs, and Brazilian Beat, one of the best of the samba bands.

Josephine Morada and Chalo Eduardo, respective leaders of these groups, helped bring samba to the attention of nationwide TV audiences last month with Viva Carnaval, the half-time pageant at the East-West football game at Stanford, involving hundreds of *sambistas* young and old. More of this later, but first a little history.

Tropical Roots

The word *samba* and many of the moves, rhythms and instruments associated with the dance have their roots in Africa, most probably in the regions currently designated as Angola and the Congo. When the Portuguese brought black Africans to Brazil as slaves in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, there was a mixing of races (black, Portuguese, and indigenous Indian) as well as a mixing of cultures and religions.

Hence the *carnavals*, like the corresponding Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans, developed in the more populous Brazilian cities as an annual last-ditch celebration preceding the Catholic austerities of Lent. Historical accounts show that 19th-century carnivals tended to be brutal and rowdy and were often

characterized by street-fighting and general intimidation as well as samba and other dancing.

As civic leaders began to press for more civilized carnivals, the *carnavalistas* themselves began to congregate in *escolas de samba* (samba schools) in the late 1920s. The escolas perfected the dance form, developed strict regulations for format and behavior, and rendered the carnivals in Rio de Janeiro considerably more orderly.

The introduction by newspapers and tourist bureaus of competition for prize money and widespread publicity inspired the development of parades with floats, elaborate costuming and choreography, and musical composition incorporating African percussive elements. All this pageantry contrasted sharply with the everyday poverty of many of the carnivalistas, who inhabited the *favelas* (slums) above the city. The music and drama of the Rio carnival were introduced to United States moviegoers in 1959 with the release of the French/Brazilian film *Black Orpheus*.

Samba in S.F.

Although thousands of expatriate Brazilians reside here, the Bay Area had to wait till 1979 to celebrate its own first Carnival. In the past seven years, the annual event has been shifted from its traditional pre-Lenten timing to the warmer days of June, and has come to include Asian and Latin elements in addition to the Brazilian.

Band leader Chalo Eduardo is himself the son of a mariachi-playing Mexican-American father, and has been playing percussion with a variety of Latin bands ever since high school 17 years ago.

Josephine Morada, whose Filipino dad did Latin dance in college, studied both classical and ethnic music and dance at Lowell High School and at U.C. Berkeley, and found a lot of her fellow Filipino-American musicians becoming involved in the city's first carnivals. She and Eduardo connected at Dance Central, formerly at 24th and Mission streets, where Eduardo accompanied the Brazilian dance classes taught by choreographer Adela Chu and attended by Morada.

Eduardo and Morada fell madly in



The kids at Buena Vista Immersion School on Noe Street studied Brazilian dance and song with Escola Nova de Samba director Josephine Morada in preparation for last month's carnival pageant at Stanford. Front left: Shawn Andrea Garety, Camila Mc Carthy, Morada and Paula Benitez. PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

love with samba and each other, and studied and performed for a couple of years with a group called Batucage. After sharpening their own skills, they founded the Escola and Brazilian Beat in 1984 to gain more control over the teaching and performance of Brazilian traditions.

Morada currently directs the Escola's beginning samba class Saturday afternoons at the Third Wave Studio at 24th and Mission and the beginning and mixed-level (and mixed-gender) classes offered Monday and Thursday evenings at the Women's Building on 18th Street. Eduardo teaches beginning percussion on Mondays at the Women's Building. In addition, Eduardo and his *bateria* (the term for a carnival percussion group) provide live accompaniment for the Monday and Thursday dance classes.

This symbiosis, says Eduardo, is the keynote of his relationship with Morada. "She's the part that I'm not and I'm the part that she's not," he explains. "I think that's why it works."

Their work has included performances in the last two Carnivals and at the 24th Street and Haight Street Fairs, the Solano and Sonoma County Fairs, and the Nihonmachi Fair at Japantown.

Twenty-fourth Street dweller Jan Luby began her study with the Escola last spring after a disappointing experience with another, less enjoyable samba group. "I don't get a real competitive air here," Luby says of the Escola. "It's just friendly. The way Morada teaches is,

she's having a great time and she'd like us to, also."

Luby also points out that there's a wide range of skill among Escola students. "There are people who are absolute beginners, who have never danced anything, and there are people who have been dancing ballet for years, and everything in between, and nobody cares. If there's a step that's too hard, you just drop out and stand on the side."

She's found out that samba touches on many other dance forms. "Everything is so related. There are steps that are really similar between Congolese dance, the Brazilian stuff, the Haitian, flamenco, and belly-dancing. . . . I grew up in a black ghetto in New York and a lot of the dances that we were calling the 'Tighten-Up' and other things are right out of samba."

At the Club

On Thursday nights Luby and her classmates are likely to be found at Bajone's along with scores of other samba fans from all over the Bay Area.

Eduardo's Brazilian Beat, the featured band there for the past year, is composed of veteran instrumentalists who make use of guitar, bass, keyboard, and trap drums as well as Afro-Brazilian instruments such as the *agogo* (bells), *ganza* (shaker), *surdo* (metal-sided drum), and *cuica* (talking drum).

Continued on Page 15



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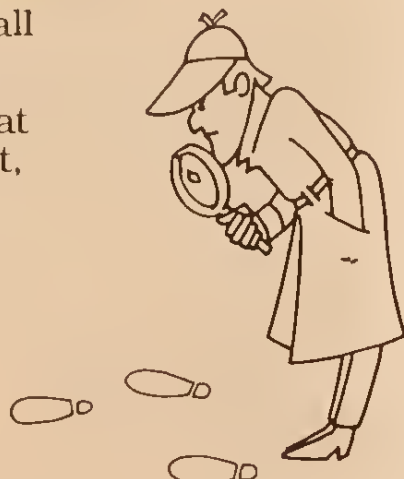
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• Brazilian Craze •

Continued from Page 14

Claudia Gomez's clear, strong alto voice and Eduardo's rakish baritone deliver the lyrics in Portuguese, telling of famous samba schools, love and *saudade's* (which can only be roughly translated as "nostalgia").

Midway through the evening Eduardo grabs a *pandeiro* (large tambourine) and performs acrobatics with it before a hushed crowd. Then the pulsing percussive locomotion of the band ushers in the costumed dancers—Morada and her best from the Escola—dressed in gorgeous tropical evening get-ups or beautifully undressed in the bikini-and-feather outfits characteristic of Rio's *caboclinos*. As the set progresses, Eduardo and the Escola performers pull the transfixed audience out onto the dance floor to form one happy, writhing mass.

"They're great for off-nights," says Johnny Bajones, counting his money at the door. "It draws a select crowd, a good-looking crowd, young, well-behaved, and good for business."

Carnaval at Stanford

The Shriners fraternity, which produces the annual East-West all-star college football game as a benefit for their children's hospitals and burn centers, discovered Eduardo and Morada in a *Chronicle* story about Carnaval. Eduardo realized he wouldn't be able to handle a mammoth half-time show on his own, and enlisted the help of Roberto Hernandez, founder of the Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA), which produced the last two Carnivals, the "lower" 24th Street Fair, and the Cinco de Mayo celebration. Hernandez dubbed the half-time show Viva Carnaval, and named Eduardo as music director and Morada as director of choreography.

Besides the Escola and a hateria assembled by Eduardo, the Jan. 10 pageant reflected the variety of the San Francisco Carnaval by including Rambafrason, with their folk costumes and dances of Cuba; Capoeira Omufu Senzala, which teaches Brazilian martial art at the Nova Academy on Dolores Street; a contingent of ganza shakers from the Mission District; and a kids' bateria from the Berkeley Arts Magnet School. An Escola student who also works out with the Rhythm and Motion studio near the Civic Center brought her aerobic colleagues, dressed in red and blue body suits, for a routine that mixed jazz and samba movements.

Perhaps the most endearing sight on the sun-drenched Stanford field was the cluster of little sambistas from the Buena Vista School, who'd been recruited by a pair of Escola students: Dahyana Otero,

a Buena Vista teacher, and Teresa Harper Rodriguez, mother of first-grader Avelina. For months the kids had been learning steps and songs as part of their multi-lingual, multi-cultural curriculum at the



Chalo Eduardo sparkled as music director at last month's Viva Carnaval celebration, performed at half-time at the Shriners' East-West football game at Stanford. PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI.

school, located on Noe Street near 30th.

Second-grader Paula Benitez found she'd benefitted from the same patience Morada uses with her older students. "It's fun, because she tells us slow, because we don't know it yet," explained Benitez. But her classmate, 8-year-old Shawn Andrea Garety, stressed the responsibility "to pay attention and keep your eyes on the teacher, because if you don't you're gonna mess up and make the rest of the group look bad."

In fact, the kids—boys in gold vests and blue top hats and girls in leotards and gauze—got an enthusiastic response from the grandstands. Aside from the local innovations, the more than 80,000 football fans and a national TV audience got to witness many of the elements of the traditional Brazilian carnival, including the *mestre sala* (major donno) and *porta bandeira* (flag-bearer) in 18th-century colonial garb, the *baianas* in the turbans and billowing skirts of northern Brazil, and *destaques* (stand-outs), gloriously represented by 24th Street restaurateur Eunice da Silva (costumed as a sort of psychedelic black Queen Elizabeth).

The reverberating musical accompaniment ranged from the primitive *afuche* rhythm to the conga theme from "I Love Lucy" to a grand samba finale executed to the ever-popular "Brasil."

Flying through the air in her fishnet body stocking, Morada gave the gold-jacketed Eduardo an enthusiastic four-limbed embrace after the show. "I can't believe that everybody got their cues," she exclaimed.

Little Alfonso Nevarez of Buena Vista was likewise proud and relieved. "I was hurting and I was tiring out there," he admitted, "but I felt good!"

Va La P'ra Frente

Most of the Stanford performers, including the Escola and the kids, are now turning their attention towards the 1987 San Francisco Carnaval. It will set forth on June 14 near 14th Street and parade down Mission towards 24th Street, where there will be a reviewing stand and several performance stages.

In the meantime, Eduardo and Morada will be writing grant proposals and striving to extend their performance circuit beyond the familiar. "I want to visit places that have never seen samba before," says Eduardo. "I think it's time that people of rock 'n' roll taste and jazz taste and everything else could enjoy our type of samba revue."

Eduardo also expects this spring to record his first album with Brazilian Beat. And someday he and his lover-colleague would like to move their costumes, instruments, rehearsals, and classes into a building of their own.

But their path this month leads south to six weeks of summertime in Rio, where they'll learn new songs and steps and party and rehearse in preparation for three days of non-stop Carnaval, Feb. 28 through March 2. While other samba bands play Bajones and other teachers keep the Escola going up here, says Morada, "I'll go straight to the ocean and thank God we made it to Brazil." □

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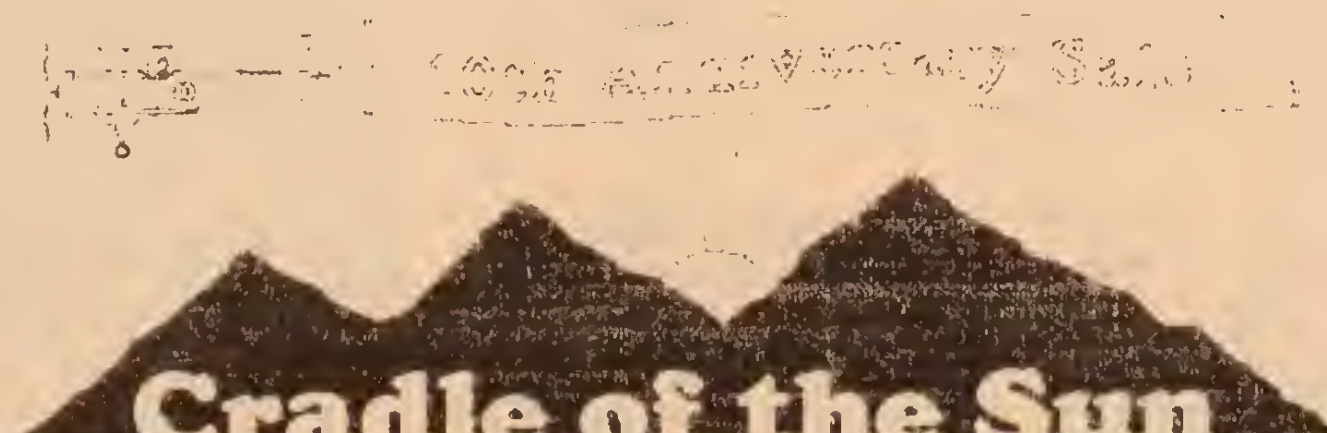


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

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The Voice of Noe Valley, Behind the Wall

The Noe Valley Voice vies for attention with other examples of local journalism on the streets of Guanzhou (Canton), China. Our traveling shutterbug notes that many Bay Area Chinese originated in this (Gauangdong) province. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

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By Mazook

THERE'S NOE OLDER NEWS in February than hearing about last year's Christmas. Who wants to recount the excesses reflected by high balances on both the credit card statement and the bathroom scale?

The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation, that's who. In fact, the venerable NVBI has just released its "24th Street Christmas '86" report. The survey found that downtown Noe Valley shoppers were quite conservative and very practical.

Roxanne, of Noe Valley Collectables, observed that folks were buying things to share, like vases and crystal, rather than personal items like jewelry.

Cathexis owner Peggy Callahan reported that although sales were up from last year, "People were more cautious than they've ever been." Not surprisingly, an item that didn't sell well at Cathexis was the macabre stuffed animal Earl the Dead Cat (\$19). Says Peggy, "We got stuck with those and about half our order of the Chinese finger traps," going for 25 cents.

Stuffed dinosaurs, however, were selling well at Star Magic, according to Star salesperson John Logiudici. "Our prehistoric section was real hot this year," he said. John did note that although many more people visited the store this Christmas, "people were buying smaller ticket items."

Another downtown Noe Valley specialty shop, The Pantry, reported higher sales this Christmas. But owner Cheryl Snow noted that people were investing heavily in "cookie cutters and bakeware, for some reason."

The most startling figure of the season came from Dan Smedley, manager of downtown Noe Valley's Bank of America. He reports an 800 percent increase (over Christmas of '85) in home equity loans at the branch. "That's quite a jump, huh?" smiled Dan, proudly wearing his "No First Interstate Takeover" button. (He'll give you one while supplies last or until the takeover, I guess.)

☎ ☎ ☎

NEW YEAR'S NOES. The facade of downtown Noe Valley is definitely in transition.

Bakers of Paris built itself a nice new face, indicative of things to come in the neighborhood.

The United States Post Office is finally under construction where Glen Five & Ten was for so many years.

The building in which Crayons boutique is housed (corner of 24th and Sanchez) has gone through a major facelift; however, it looks like Crayons—along with Noe Jeans across the street—is going out

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

of business, and the Crayons building is up for sale.

Rumors are rampant that there will be a 7-Eleven convenience store in the space just vacated by Stagecoach Western Apparel (next to Surf Super). But many folks in the neighborhood are against the idea of a 24-hour market on 24th Street. (See story, page 1.) They might go for a 7-Nine, though.

Skeffingtons, the housewares store on Castro near 24th, is no more. Soon to open in that space is a gallery of American crafts and artifacts called Out of Hand.

Across the street, below Carson-York Dessert Cafe, Noe Valleon Miles Ladd has opened a tropical flower shop called Bora Bora Flora. Miles worked as a florist in Hawaii, and the fragrance in the store can almost transplant you in the land of paradise. Well, almost.

Next to Bora Bora Flora, Victor Casco is opening a fish market featuring fresh shellfish and smoked fish, sushi, and ceviche (which is a Central American cold appetizer of sea bass, snapper, shrimp, cilantro and onion cooked in lemon and cooled). Victor may go totally yuppie and install a lobster tank.

Fresh fish and fresh pasta served Mediterranean style is what you'll find on the menu at the Blue Pacific Cafe, a restaurant soon opening on 24th Street east of Noe's Bar where the New Hunan Restaurant used to be. Local restaurateur Dino Farinas (who owns Noe Valley Pizza) has gotten approval to expand the Hunan space (which he leases) into part of the building in back (which Dino owns). If you follow the geography of the situation, this means that the rear of the Church Street Faire, the party store that is north of Noe's Bar, will be lost somewhere in the Blue Pacific.

Across 24th Street from the old New Hunan, Magic of Persia has relocated its "tribal rug" store. Owners Susan and Ali Pishgar live half the year in Raf Sanjan, Iran, and the other half in good ol' San Fran. "We were over on 22nd Street at Chattanooga for several years and do a good business," says Susan. "Noe Valley has a lot of hardwood floors, so we found people are happy to find us."

Ali buys his magic carpets in the different tribal regions of Iran and imports them directly to Noe Valley. The rugs sell in the \$700 to \$900 range, which Susan says is "a real bargain if you shop around." Susan, an American who speaks Farsi, says that life in Iran is quiet and that she experiences no anti-

Americanism. In fact, she "gets along great" with her mother-in-law, Haj Fatehmeh (pictured on this page).

☎ ☎ ☎

THE BUS DOESN'T STOP HERE.. Efforts of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and their valiant leader, Fred Methner, to reinstate the 48-Quintara bus stop at 24th and Homestead streets have apparently failed.

On Jan. 15, East & West chartered a Muni bus that picked up more than a score of bus stop supporters at the disputed stop on 24th and Homestead and took them down to a hearing at City Hall. Led by Fred, the group made an impassioned plea and presented a pro-stop petition signed by 45 residents to the board of supervisors' Transportation and Traffic Committee. Transportation and Traffic was not so moved, however, and "tabled" the proposal on the votes of Supervisors Tom Hsieh and Carol Ruth Silver.

Evidently, they were swayed by Muni management, who wanted to save time on the route, and by other neighborhood residents, who argued that the bus stop would cause "litter, noise, loitering, foul smells, graffiti and crime." The bus stop opponents had also sent a letter 'round the neighborhood warning residents that they better object, lest the East & West "ram it down your throats."

Unflappable as always, Fred is now lobbying for a compromise: since his research shows that the Homestead stop is most needed by grocery-laden riders getting off the bus, not on, perhaps 48 drivers could "stop at Homestead at the request of passengers only." More on this Muni-mania next month.

Another grassroots gathering took place recently at the Diamond Heights home of former supervisorial candidate David Wharton. Political analyst David Binder, who lives at 20th and Church, told a meeting of the Golden Gate Democratic League that we may be in for a five-way mayoral race in 1988 between Supervisor John Molinari, Assemblyman Art Agnos, City Attorney Louise Renne, long-shot Supervisor Richard Hongisto, and dark horse Mission Street impresario Cesar Ascarrunz. According to Binder, the big issues separating the two front-runners (Molinari and Agnos) are growth (Prop. M.), vacancy decontrol, and whether San Francisco should be the home of the battleship Missouri. At last report, battle lines were still being drawn.



Haj Fatehmeh of Iran looks benignly upon the Persian rug store which her son Ali Pishgar and daughter-in-law Susan have opened on 24th Street.

☎ ☎ ☎

MAZOOK'S NOE VALLEON MEDALION for 1986 goes to Miriam Blaustein, whose public spiritedness should be an example to us all. In addition to maintaining her role as chief activist in the neighborhood group Friends of Noe Valley, she worked on Nancy Walker's supervisorial campaign in 1986 and with the Prop. M proponents.

She is a San Francisco Tomorrow board member and contributes time and energy to projects at Alvarado School as well as to the San Francisco Intergenerational Program at Live Oak School. She is a nuclear freeze advocate and an outspoken critic of U.S. intervention in Central America. She's a member of a committee advocating senior housing on Diamond Street, a very active Gray Panther, and co-author of the *Cheap and Nutritious* cookbook. She serves on a panel investigating ways to revive the San Francisco fishing industry, and visited the Soviet Union last March.

At 73, Miriam is more active than most people half her age. She's doing a 90-minute cooking program for television on April 9 at Chico State which will be beamed by satellite throughout the U.S. Miriam for mayor!

☎ ☎ ☎

HOT FLASHES FROM YUCCA FLATS, NEVADA. If you feel the earth move Feb. 5, it's only another atomic bomb exploding under the sands of the Nevada test site, 500 miles away. Although this may not be earthshaking news these days, it ought to be. What on earth are we doing anyway? *Do svidanya*, kids. □



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PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

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DEADLINE: Monday, June 1, 1987

The rules: Three prints per entry (each picture should be able to stand on its own). 8" x 10" B/W prints only. Unpublished photos. Must be taken in California within the last 10 years. Photos should be the type that would appear in a magazine or newspaper, i.e., photo-journalism or documentary. No returns unless accompanied by S.A.S.E. Please include your phone number. Judges will be the editors of the Noe Valley Voice. Mail or deliver entries to 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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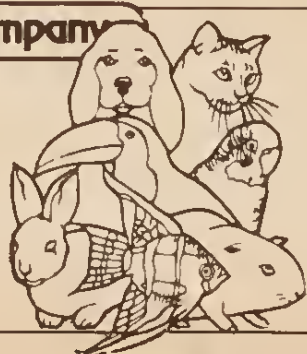
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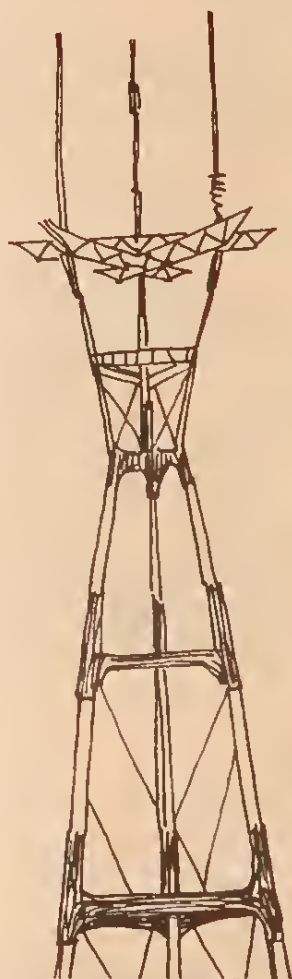
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MORE MOUTHS to feed



Laura Ann Cherkas

In the meantime, Terry, 26, has returned to her job as a teller at Gibraltar Savings, and feels that "Laura Ann will enjoy day-care; she's an outgoing baby and enjoys new people and experiences." Daddy agrees: "She's real active, a go-getter—doesn't miss a trick!"

Miriam Shulgold-Albert

Almost two years ago, Barbara Shulgold and Rich Albert began the complicated but rewarding process of searching for a child to adopt. On Sept. 29, 1986, they rejoiced at the birth of their 7-pound, 8-ounce daughter, Miriam Shulgold-Albert. Three days later they brought Miriam to her new home on Fair Oaks Street.

"We think she's the most wonderful creature on earth," extols Barbara, a homemaker and former public school teacher of 17 years. "This is something we wanted with incredible passion, and it has been tremendously fulfilling."

Rich, who works as a technical editor and freelance writer, also finds Miriam an irresistible topic. "I've had no trouble being interested, since day one. She's so alert and alive, and there's so much happening every day—it's even better than I thought it would be."

Mom and Dad, both in their early 40s,



describe their daughter as "easygoing and euphoric" and "already sleeping through most nights." This mellow beginning, coupled with Rich and Barbara's belief that "adoptive parents never take their children for granted," certainly bodes well for Miriam's future.

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., S.F. 94114. Also include your phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait.



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Murray, a 31-year-old building contractor, says there's nothing better than walking into his Sanchez Street home after work and being greeted by a smiling baby. Mommy adds, "The last year has been a joy and a pain, a lot of happiness and a lot of new discoveries."

Both parents would like more children, but not for another couple of years.



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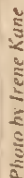
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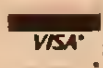
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• MORE Books to Read •

Here are the books with the shortest shelf life at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. (between Castro and Diamond). You can check them out 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays; 1 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays; and 1 to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday (phone: 285-2788).

Adult Fiction

Dark Angel—V. C. Andrews
Red Storm Rising—Tom Clancy
Whirlwind—James Clavell
Skinwalkers—Tony Hillerman
A Taste for Death—P. D. James
Field's Child—Dalene Matthee
The Raven in the Foregate—Ellis Peters
Frieze—Cecile Pineda
At Home in Thrush Green—Miss Read

Nonfiction

Finding the Right Job at Midlife—Jeffrey Allen & Jess Gorkin
Truman Capote: Dear Heart, Old Buddy—John Malcolm Brinnin
Patagonia Revisited—Bruce Chatwin & Paul Theroux
The Psychotherapy Maze: In and Out of Therapy—Otto Ehrenberg & Miriam Ehrenberg
The Last Dalai Lama: A Biography—Michael Goodman
Across China—Peter Jenkins
Ulysses: The Corrected Text—James Joyce
Vacation Places Rated: Finding the Best Vacation Places in America—Sylvia McNair
Medical and Health Guide for People Over Fifty

Love, Medicine, and Miracles: Lessons Learned About Self-Healing From a Surgeon's Experience With Exceptional Patients—Bernie Siegel

How to Cook: An Easy and Imaginative Guide for the Beginner—Raymond Sokolov

Marilyn—Gloria Steinem

You and Your Cat—David Taylor

Voices Against Tyranny: Writing of the Spanish Civil War—John Miller, ed.

Piece of My Heart: Stories of 26 American Women Who Served in Vietnam—Keith Walker

Children's Fiction

Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?—Nancy Carlstrom (ages 3-5)
Ups and Downs With Oink and Pearl—Kay Choro (5-8)
I'm Not Sleepy—Susanna Gretz (infant-2)
Jon: A True Story—Margaret Mahy (4-8)
Journey to Jo'burg: A South African Story—Beverly Naidoo (10 and up)

Children's Nonfiction

A Puppy is Born—Heiderose Fischer-Nagel (4-8)
From Path to Highway: The Story of the Boston Post Road—Gail Gibbons (6-9)
David Decides About Thumbucking: A Motivating Story for Children and an Informative Guide for Parents—Susan Heitler
Isaac Newton: Reluctant Genius—D.C. Ipsen (9 and up)
People, Love, Sex and Families: Answers to Questions That Preteens Ask—Eric Johnson

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RELIABLE, RETIRED IOWA couple arriving San Francisco about Feb. 5 for six-week stay seeks modestly priced room rental and/or house-sitting opportunity in Noe area. References available. Call Mark McDougall. 648-8783.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE? Learn self-management of blood pressure in six-week training program. Groups forming now in Noe Valley. Sandy Shepherd, RN, 824-4440; Marjory Nelson, Ph.D., cert. Hypnotherapist, 647-2845.

'71 VW BUS, cheap. Runs, needs steering work. Nancy, 821-6618.

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NOE VALLEY POETS, artists, sculptors and musicians: The 2nd Annual Noe Valley Art Affair promises to be as successful as the first. For information on exhibiting or sponsoring, call Jeff at 285-0674 or come to the meeting at 4054 24th St. Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

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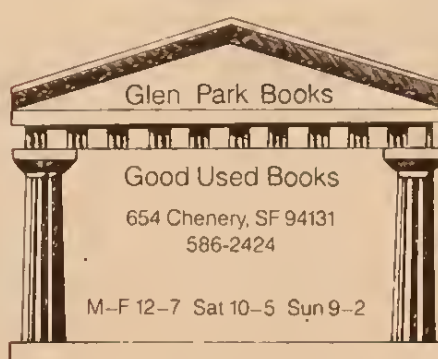
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CALENDAR

FEB. 1-15: PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION "Missing Persons," by Jerry Berndt, and "Scenes of Survival," by David Wells, take a look at the plight of the homeless. Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St. Gallery hours, Thurs - Sun, 1-5 p.m. 431-6911



The faces of the homeless reflected in this photo by Jerry Berndt appear in a joint exhibit by Berndt and David Wells at the Eye Gallery, Feb. 1-15

FEB. 1-21: PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE by Steven Moses (1963-1986), an autobiographical exhibit in tribute to this young artist who was killed by an unknown assailant on a San Francisco street last year. Galeria de la Raza, 2851 24th St. Gallery hours Tues-Sat, 1-6 p.m. 826-8009

FEB. 1-APRIL 1: The Humanist Arts Alliance presents "A Tribute to Single Parents," a collaborative exhibit of photographs, interviews, poetry and song. The Owl and Monkey Cafe, 1336 Ninth Ave. 681-7454

FEB. 3, 17, 24: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME for ages 3-5. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 11 a.m. 285-2788

FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25: INFANT-TODDLER LAPSIT for ages infant to 3 years. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7 p.m. 285-2788

FEB. 5: VALENTINE CRAFTS for ages 5 and up. Make Valentine cards and send one to your favorite author. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 3:30 p.m. 285-2788

FEB. 6: Jill Gregory, lucid DREAM EXPERT, shares tips on how to develop techniques to produce effortless, playful, unlimited and instantaneous travel in our dreams. The Dream House, 395 Sussex St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 239-6906

FEB. 6, 7, 8: A weekend of performance by THE DANCE BRIGADE to benefit the Noe Valley Community Store, the Alternative Aids Healing Project and the Dance Brigade Latin American Tour. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 8 p.m. 863-9834

FEB. 7: An evening of ACOUSTIC MUSIC with Nancy DeRoss, "the greatest female voice in the Bay Area," according to Calendar Magazine. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

FEB. 7: Traveling storyteller JOEL BEN IZZY performs many new stories recently collected from Israel, Lower Slobovia and Newark, New Jersey. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246

FEB. 7: The Jacques Romain Cultural Brigade reads and performs POETRY FROM HAITI. Bookworks of San Francisco, 2848 Mission St. 7:30 p.m. 648-3324

FEB. 8: Experiment with color, sound and the chakras in a CREATIVE DANCE WORKSHOP with Sue Loyd, Director of the Golden Gate Ballet Center. Golden Gate Ballet Center, 3435 Army St., Suite 224. 5-9 p.m. 285-4932

FEB. 8: VALENTINE PARTY for older gay men, offering square-dancing with the Western Star Dancers, valentine making, refreshments and more. Francis of Assisi Community, 145 Guerrero St. 3 p.m. 626-7000

FEB. 12: West Coast premiere of the DOCUMENTARY FILM, *Hall-Life*, a compelling look at the effects of nuclear tests on the lives of the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands in 1954. Proceeds to benefit the Nuclear Freeze Zone Initiative to stop home-ported of the battleship USS Missouri. Roxie Theater, 16th & Valencia streets. 7 p.m. 864-8348

FEB. 13: Local San Francisco mystery novelists discuss their craft on Friday the 13th MYSTERY THRILLER NIGHT. Bookworks of San Francisco, 2848 Mission St. 7:30 p.m. 648-3324

FEB. 19: ANGELA DAVIS, author of *Women, Race, and Class*, helps celebrate Black History Month with a talk on Black Women in History. Old Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4676.

FEB. 19: UTAH PHILLIPS, "golden voice of the great southwest," will perform a potpourri of songs and stories to benefit the Noe Valley Ministry's roof project. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 282-2317

FEB. 21: BERNARD GILBERT and his "cheap guitar" bring us more topical and satirical songs. Clarion Cafe, 2118 Mission St. 8 p.m. 661-3835

FEB. 22: BOBBY MCFERRIN teams up with a 16-voice chorus of some of the Bay Area's most popular vocalists, including Molly Holm, Laurie Antoniolli and Rhiannon. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 4 p.m. 282-2317

FEB. 22: Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders sponsors a WOMEN'S TEA DANCE. SF Home Health Services, 225 30th St. 2-5 p.m. 626-7000

FEB. 22: The Rikudom Israeli Folk Dancers throws its monthly FOLK DANCE PARTY. Bethany Church Hall, 1268 Sanchez St. 7 p.m. 647-2483

FEBRUARY 1987

FEB. 8: Kidshows Performing Arts Series for Families presents PAUL THE MAGICIAN, wizard and prestidigitator in the old-timey tradition—complete with live animals! Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 2:30 & 3:30 p.m. 282-2317

FEB. 8: Friends of the S.F. Public Library MINI BOOK SALE to benefit tree Library programs, book acquisitions and special projects. All books 4 for \$1 or 30 cents each. Fort Mason Conference Center, Bldg A. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 558-3857

FEB. 8, 15, 28: Sunday classes in GREEK COOKING with Anastasia. 3:30 p.m. 826-5886

FEB. 10: FILM PROGRAM for ages 3-5. "Angus Lost," "Mole in the Zoo" and "Blueberries for Sal." Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 10 & 11 a.m. 285-2788

FEB. 10: FILM PROGRAM for ages 6 and older. "People Soup," "Practical Princess" and "Burl Dow." Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 3:30 p.m. 285-2788



Dance Brigade rallies to benefit several worthwhile causes at the New Performance Gallery Feb. 6-8.

FEB. 10: Get feedback from peers, or listen to work in progress at the FICTION WRITERS OPEN READING. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246

FEB. 13: STEPHEN RIAVE sings songs in the new folk idiom, touching on everything from U.S. foreign policy to street life in San Francisco. Clarion Cafe, 2118 Mission St. 8 p.m. 661-3835

FEB. 13, 20, 27: ALUMNAE RESOURCES' Friday Wrap-up series for women offers "Working with Difficult People," (Feb. 13), "Sexual Harassment—What Should Be Done," (Feb. 20), and "Your Time—7 Things that Get in Your Way," (Feb. 27). 660 Mission St. Noon-1:15 p.m. 546-0125.

FEB. 14: "Cutting Loose: a WORKSHOP ON SEPARATION AND DIVORCE" examines no-fault divorce and the resulting negative financial impact on women and children. Presented by Options for Women Over Forty. Fort Mason Firehouse. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 431-6405

FEB. 14: GEDDY HOYLE offers a special one-man Valentine's Day performance. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

FEB. 14: Michael S. Bell and Hesh Rosen read and perform ROMANTIC LYRIC POETRY. Bring your Valentines and your hankies. Bookworks of San Francisco, 2848 Mission St. 7 p.m. 648-3324

FEB. 15: Sue Loyd, Director of the Golden Gate Ballet Center, offers and evening of DANCE, ritual, spirit, friendship and play. Golden Gate Ballet Center, 3435 Army St., Suite 224. 6-10 p.m. 285-4932

FEB. 15: Jan Zobel, E.A., teaches a ONE-DAY SEMINAR entitled, "Basic Recordkeeping and Tax Information for Self-Employed People." 12:30-5 p.m. 821-1015.

FEB. 15: "Women and Goals—What Stands in Our Way?", a WOMEN'S WORKSHOP discussing beliefs that prevent women from achieving, and ways of overcoming these beliefs. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 1-5 p.m. 994-2546.



Vaudeville Nouveau copes comically with rubber chickens and flights of fancy at the Noe Valley Music Series Feb. 21.

FEB. 20-March 22: EL TEATRO DE LA ESPERANZA presents *Loteria de Pasiones*, a bilingual exploration of Chicano/Mexicano views on life, luck, destiny and choice through the folkloric imagery of the Mexican bingo game. Loteria. Mission Cultural Center, 2882 Mission St. Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m. 695-1410

FEB. 21: The Bay Area's NEW VAUDEVILLIANS appear in their last show before a three-month stint at Lincoln Center in New York. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

FEB. 21: Meeting for poets, artists, sculptors or musicians planning to participate in the 2ND ANNUAL NOE VALLEY ART AFFAIR. 4054 24th St. 2 p.m. 285-0674

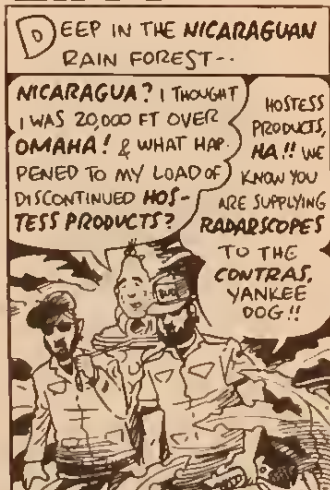
FEB. 24: MARGARET WILKERSON introduces her book, *Nine Plays by Black Women*, and students from her U.C. Berkeley class act out scenes from several of the plays. Old Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4676.

FEB. 27: Explore intuition and archetypal symbols in a TAROT WORKSHOP entitled, "The Language of the Tarot," with Susan Cole. The Dream House, 395 Sussex St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 239-6906.

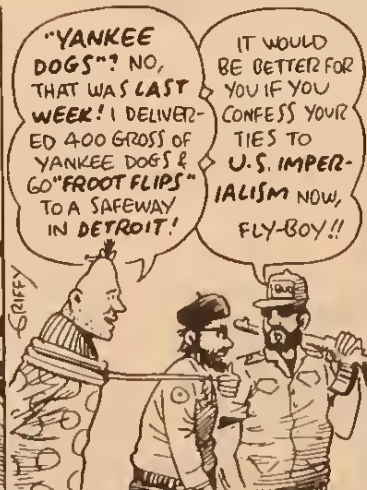
FEB. 27: Reception and BOOK PARTY for Ariel Dorfman, Chilean author of *The Last Song of Manuel Sendero*. Bookworks of San Francisco, 2848 Mission St. 7:30 p.m. 648-3324

FEB. 28: CELTIC AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC with Billy Oskay, Michael O'Donnahill and Triona Ni Dhomhnaill. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

ZIPPY



"GUERRILLA WELFARE"



BILL GRIFFITH



The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Please note: Our next issue will appear March 3. The deadline for calendar items is Feb. 15.